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A cartoon mascot character with a yellow face and purple body, featuring large purple ears and a purple tail with yellow stripes. The character is pointing upwards with its right hand.

**Chester ISD**  
**Athletic Handbook**  
**2025-2026**

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Dear Parents and Student-Athletes,

We would like to welcome you to the Chester Athletic Program! We believe that participation in sports provides a wealth of opportunities and experiences that assist students in personal growth and development. Chester believes in the development of young men and women through athletics. We feel that a properly structured, well-organized sports program meets student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. It is our pledge to maintain a program that is sound in purpose and will further each student's educational maturity. Likewise, we believe that parents have committed themselves to certain responsibilities and obligations to the student-athlete. We would like to take this opportunity to familiarize you with specific policies that are necessary for a well-organized athletic program. It is the role of the Athletic Department to make rules governing interscholastic competition. These rules need broad-based community support to be fully effective. This is best achieved through mutual communication between the Athletic Department, the student-athletes, and the parents of each of our student-athletes. One way that we have committed to accomplishing this objective is through this athletic handbook for students, parents and coaches. The most important reason that our department exists is to ensure that students have an opportunity to partake in and enjoy sports during their time at Chester. As an athletic department, we can assure you that students and the teams in which they are a part of are the guiding force in everything we do and every decision that we make. Our focus and primary objective—in making this handbook and in all that we do—will always be to do what is in the best interest of the student and their team. This combination shall ensure a promising and successful future for Chester Athletics. Thank You very much for taking the time to read the athletic handbook. It will not only allow you to become familiar with our policies and procedures, it will also allow for a smooth transition for you as a new or continued member of the Chester Yellow Jackets athletic program. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

**GO Jackets!**  
Coleman Butter  
Director of Athletics

## **PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY:**

The athletic department at Chester is an important part of our school's educational program. We want to ensure that each student-athlete reaches their maximum potential. It is our philosophy to use athletics as a vehicle to join young athletes from different backgrounds for the purpose of becoming future leaders of the community. Throughout the process we will develop a set of skills and a disciplined environment that will produce **QUALITY LEADERS** in the concept of **FAMILY, PROFESSIONALISM, and CITIZENSHIP**. In doing so, there will be a direct correlation to **SUCCESS** in the athletic program that will result in a **CHAMPIONSHIP** caliber program with a heightened sense of **PRIDE** toward the school that will benefit the program as a whole and everyone who is involved with the community as well.

Our program will strive to:

- Offer a well-balanced and varied program of interscholastic athletics
- Teach the value of competition
- Foster the development of athletic skills
- Encourage the development of a strong work ethic, self-discipline and self-sacrifice
- Teach the value of commitment, teamwork and cooperation
- Encourage the development of judgment, character, and leadership
- Teach the value of ethical conduct, sportsmanship, and fair play
- Encourage the development of loyalty and pride in one's self, their team, and the school community

## **OUR COACHES:**

The coach is responsible for creating a fun, safe, and challenging environment in which his/her student-athletes will receive a high level of instruction and competition. The coach is also responsible for confirming game and bus schedules, turning in a roster prior to the season, distributing and collecting uniforms and equipment, completing game, injury and/or incident reports, and communicating with parents. The coach must also ensure that student-athletes are exhibiting good behavior on and off the court/field. The coach is expected to be a positive representative of Chester ISD and the Athletic Department. This includes ensuring that the coach conducts himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. He/She is expected to make decisions based on the collective interest of the team, while also developing each student-athlete to his/her fullest potential. The coach must be clear in expectations and available to student-athletes for positive mentorship on and off the field/court. He/She is expected to maintain high personal standards, motivate the players, and promote sportsmanship in all aspects, at all times.

## **PARENTS:**

Parents play a vital role in the Chester Athletics Program. Parents model attitudes and behavior for their children. We invite all parents to attend home and away games, support the team, and encourage their children to practice and play hard. We are so appreciative of the assistance parents provide for their children in their athletic endeavors, whether driving them to and from practice, volunteering to serve athletics as a member of the Booster Club, and sacrificing family

time to accommodate athletic schedules. We also appreciate the support parents provide our coaches in their efforts to create a valuable athletic experience for all participants. It is important for parents to be mindful of and respect what the coaches is trying to do by avoiding interference or public criticism, especially in front of their children, other teammates, or community members. In regards to games, parents are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school. At no time should a parent display inappropriate behavior toward an official, coach, administrator or student-athlete. Any Spectator/Parent who acts in a disruptive manner can be suspended until the situation is resolved or the spectator is removed.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETES:**

The student-athlete is expected to be a positive addition to the Chester Athletic Department. If a student-athlete must discuss an issue with the coach, he/she must communicate in a respectful manner to try and find a solution. If a situation cannot be reached, the Athletic Director may assist. Student-Athletes will be representing Chester on and off the playing court/field and are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that will reflect positively upon our program and school. Student-Athletes are expected to be respectful and exhibit good behavior in class, in practice, in games and in the community. If a student-athlete fails to conduct himself/herself in a manner that will bring honor and respect to our teams and school, he/she may be subject to penalties which may include game suspensions, ineligibility, or dismissal from the team.

### **STUDENT-ATHLETES WILL:**

- Be a worthy representative of teammates, coaches, and the school community, abiding by school and community expectations
- Reflect the knowledge that commitment to victory is nothing without commitment to hard work in practice
- Understand that athletics is just one part in the big picture with the cornerstone being that a Chester student strives to achieve excellence in all areas
- Learn to deal with adversity in an honorable way and to capitalize on growth opportunities
- Express feelings intelligently and appropriately
- Accept the responsibilities of team membership: support of teammates, cooperation, positive interaction, and mutual respect.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Chester ISD follows the UIL rules of eligibility and students must be in good standing will all UIL rules to participate (Grades, Residency, Physicals, etc.). 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys will only be allowed to participate in football if the number of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade players is less than 12.

### **DISCIPLINARY CONDUCT:**

The Head Coach of a sport and the Athletic Director may determine the consequences for failure to follow our policies. Consequences are to be equally enforced, and continued non-compliance can result in being suspended from athletics for a full year. Repeat offenses will result in a disciplinary action that is progressively stricter.

Since circumstances surrounding each action may vary greatly, the coaching staff will make every effort to allow the punishment to fit the offense. Punishments extended in similar cases will help guide coaching decisions, but each case will stand independently, and comparisons to punishments extended to other student-athletes are not valid. Parents may schedule a conference with the coach of the sport to discuss punishment assigned to their student athlete.

In order for an athlete to be considered in violation, one or more of the following must occur:

- Athlete admits to the violation.
- Parent of the athlete admits to the violation.
- A Chester ISD staff member witnesses the athlete in violation.
- A Chester ISD administrator has reason to believe that an athlete has committed an offense.
- A local agency report or violation is filed.
- A local agency of the law makes a verbal report of a violation.
- Evidence such as a photograph or video is presented.
- Student will be placed on growth plan if in violation.
- If the student athlete is removed from a team, they will be required to sit out until that current season is complete.

#### **ATHLETIC DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE:**

All discipline issues or violations that require action such as removal or suspension from the program will be reviewed by the athletic discipline committee. The committee is made up of the Head Coach from that sport, the Athletic Director, Principal or Assistant Principal and a teacher that has that student athlete in class. The infraction will be reviewed and the proper course of action will be decided for that student athlete.

#### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND HAZING:**

Any student-athlete found to be in violation of the school's substance abuse policy will automatically be suspended from all team activities including practice, games, tournaments, dinners, etc., while the reported offense is under review by the coach, athletic director, and school administrator. Chester Athletic Department reserves the right to impose disciplinary action or other condition which it considers in its discretion, appropriate to the circumstances of any violation. This may include suspension from the athletic team for the remainder of season, as well as expulsion from the athletic program for the remainder of the school year.

- The use of tobacco in **ANY** form by any athlete is prohibited.
- Vaping is prohibited. If in possession of vape and or nicotine product, we will follow the student handbook on disciplinary consequences.
- The consumption of alcoholic beverages of any kind, variety, or description, including beer, liquor, wine, malt liquor, ale, and/or mixed beverages by any athlete is prohibited.
- The consumption or use of marijuana of any species, or any narcotic or dangerous drug listed as a controlled substance by the Texas Controlled Substance Act is prohibited, unless the same is used in accordance with the prescription from a doctor of medicine.

- Steroid use of any type is prohibited.

Chester ISD Athletic Department forbids any form of hazing. Hazing is defined as any forced, required, intentional or negligent action, situation or activity which recklessly places any person at risk of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignity, or which encourages violation of any federal, state, local, or school law for the purpose of initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization affiliated with the Chester Athletic Department. This applies regardless of the willingness of the participant. Hazing, with or without the consent of a student, is prohibited by Chester ISD and a violation of that prohibition renders both the person inflicting the hazing and the person submitting to the hazing subject to discipline.

### **CLASSWORK:**

Student-athletes are expected to maintain satisfactory conduct in all classes. Any student-athlete who does not maintain satisfactory conduct in a class will be subject to a behavioral improvement plan.

On occasion when student-athletes must miss class to participate in scheduled athletic events, they are responsible for turning in class work that is due that day and they are responsible for making up any missed work in a timely fashion. If a student-athlete arrives home late from an athletic contest or misses class the day before a test due to an athletic contest, it is at the teacher's discretion to allow the student-athlete to test at an alternative time. If the student-athlete must leave class early on a testing day due to an athletic contest, it is the responsibility of the student-athlete to reschedule the test for a date that is agreed upon by the student-athlete and teacher.

### **OVERNIGHT TRIPS:**

Varsity teams may periodically have overnight trips during the regular season or post-season tournaments. Hotel and transportation arrangements are made by the Athletic Director. The nature of team travel will require implementing room curfews, limiting or denying student-athlete separation from the group, and defining appropriate dress and behavior while our student-athletes are representing our school. School rules are in effect when team travel occurs. Whether in or out of town, on or off the field/court, Chester student-athletes are expected to uphold the highest standards of decorum.

### **QUITTING:**

Athletes who quit a sport will not be allowed to start another sport until the team they were participating on is finished with their season.

To encourage participation in all sports, if a student-athlete wants to try a sport, he can communicate with the coach before the season and be given a two week grace period to practice to decide if the student wants to compete in that sport or not.

If the athlete quits after the two week grace period they will be required to run 15 miles in addition to sitting out until that season is finished before moving on to the next sport. The Athlete will have 30 days to run those miles. They must be complete before they can begin the next sport. We want to encourage each athlete to follow through with their commitments and finish what they start. **\*\*SEE QUIT FORM IN BACK OF PACKET.**

## **BEING ON TIME/ABSENCES**

**In School Attendance-** Student-athletes must be at school by 10:00am on the day of a contest in order to be eligible to play unless absence meets excused criteria (Doctor/Dentist, funeral, UIL events). ALL student-athletes must meet the 90% attendance requirement to be eligible for play.

Student-athletes are expected to be dressed and on time to the athletic period, practice, games, or any other event specified by the coach. It is the student-athletes responsibility to notify the coach if he/she is going to be late or absent. If the coach is unable to be contacted, a message should be left at the office. Failure to notify the coach may result in disciplinary action.

An absence for any reason is still an absence and should be made up before the next contest. The make-up conditioning is done to make up for the workout the athlete missed by the athlete, both in the athletic period and after school practice. The extra make up conditioning is done in addition to the normal daily workout and should be done for every workout missed. All absences of athletic period or practice will result in sport specific conditioning and/or penalty.

**Excused Absence-** An excused absence is granted for an illness, emergency, death, etc. In such cases, the student-athlete should call the coach prior to the absence, as well as present the coach a written note from the parent/guardian immediately following the incident if requested. Communication is the responsibility of the student-athlete and parent/guardian.

The Chester Athletic Department understands that there will be times when it is unavoidable to miss. However, even an excused absence will be required to make up the work missed. This is not punishment, it is “make-up” conditioning that was missed.

**Unexcused Absence-** An unexcused absence is failure to communicate an absence with a coach, or an absence that is not a legitimate reason to miss. An unexcused absence will result in a one game suspension. The athlete will be required to make up the practice time they missed. If the athlete has two unexcused absences, they will be removed from the team that’s in season and placed on a growth plan. They will also be required to run their 15 miles and sit out until that season has ended before moving on to the next sport.

## **PRACTICE GEAR:**

The coach of each team will give further instructions regarding required practice gear Student-athletes are responsible for all items issued to him/her. Any lost, damaged or stolen items must be paid for by the student-athlete before another is issued. All uniforms and warm-ups are due the day after the final game of the season or on the date set by the coach.

**LOCKER ROOMS:**

All Chester ISD students, 6-12 grades (Physical Education and Student-athletes) will be using the locker rooms. Coaches will lock the locker rooms before leaving for practice and will reopen the locker rooms when returning from practice. The student-athletes are encouraged to put all valuables and personal items in the school lockers for safe keeping. The Athletic Department, coaches, or Athletic Director are not responsible for lost or stolen items (uniforms, equipment, school issued materials, or personal items) that in the locker room or surrounding athletic facilities.

**ILLNESS & INJURY:**

All injuries should be reported to the coach and/or athletic director at the time they occur so further injury can be avoided. If you are injured, remember the following:

1. Tell the coach and/or athletic director that you are injured before leaving the field/court
2. No matter how small the injury, get treatment
3. No one shall miss practice without a doctor's permission
4. Student-athletes are expected to attend team practices each day that attend school
5. A second notice from the doctor should be given to the coach to end physical restrictions
6. Anyone who becomes sick, nauseated, dizzy, and/or very hot should notify the coach and/or athletic director immediately.

\*\*If athlete is injured while at school practice or in competition, an incident report must be filled out. Chester ISD only provides supplemental insurance for athletes. The form must be filled out and submitted to the doctor at the visit. We recommend Beaumont Bone and Joint or Dedicated Orthopedic-Lufkin. (see form example in back of this packet)

**CLUB/SELECT TEAMS:**

Chester Athletics will take precedence over club or league competitions and practice sessions. Student-athletes will not be excused from Chester athletic practices or games in order to attend game or practice sessions for club or league teams. It is the responsibility of the student-athlete to communicate his/her participation on club or league teams prior to the start of the season so that any potential conflicts may be worked out.

**GAME CANCELLATION:**

In the event that the coach must cancel a practice, it is the responsibility of the coach and/or Athletic Director to notify the team and parents. Inclement weather does not determine whether practice will be held—the coach makes the determination. When available, indoor facilities may be used to hold practice in these circumstances. If a change is made in the practice schedule, parents and student-athletes will be notified as soon as possible. In most cases, it is the responsibility of the host school to make decisions regarding game cancellations. When hosting an event, Chester will make every effort to make cancellation decisions by 2:00pm on the day of the event. When a game is cancelled, the coach may choose to hold a practice in its place. If the

coach chooses to hold a practice in place of the cancelled game, he/she will communicate this information to the parents and student-athletes as soon as possible.

### **FACILITY USEAGE POLICY:**

Any usage of the facilities must be approved by the Superintendent and Athletic Director. Student-athletes must be accompanied by an approved faculty supervisor when using the facilities. Such usage must be pre-approved by the Athletic Director.

### **CONCERNS OR ISSUES:**

Step 1: One of the greatest opportunities for student-athletes is learning skills for effective conflict resolution. When there is a concern, student-athletes are encouraged to speak with their coach directly. It can be very satisfying for all parties involved when student-athletes and coach are able to find mutually agreeable solutions for an issue that they are preempting to resolve.

Step 2: If the coach and student-athlete are unable to resolve the issue together, then parents may contact the coach. If a parent has a concern to discuss with the coach, the parent should contact the coach at an appropriate time for both parties. An upset parent should wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach or parent after and athletic event. Under no circumstances should a parent approach a coach or another parent in a harsh manner immediately before, during, or immediately after a practice or a game. Taking this time to reflect on the situation, as well as honest and respectful communication should allow for more effective dialogue ensuring a more successful experience for everyone. It is not appropriate for a parent to request feedback from the coach about team strategy (including playing time), play calling, or other student-athletes. It is appropriate for a parent to contact the coach with concerns about their son/daughter's behavior, their skill development, and for physical treatment advice.

Step 3: If the discussion with the coach does not resolve the issue, parents and coaches may contact the Athletic Director to discuss the situation.

Step 4: If the Athletic Director is unable to provide a satisfactory resolution, the parent may contact the appropriate administrator.

Chester Athletics believes that at all levels—seventh grade through varsity—playing time in competition is earned in practice and is not an entitlement. Regardless of the subjective nature of the process and the potential for disagreement, the coach is the only one in a position to make team selections and decisions about playing time. Coaches WILL NOT discuss playing time with parents. Also members of a varsity team are not guaranteed playing time. Student-athletes should fully understand that by joining a team they are accepting the pleasures and benefits of participating as well as the responsibility and commitment to that team. Participation in athletics is a privilege, NOT a right. Students can earn the privilege through hard work, dedication, desire, and self-discipline. All students that are currently enrolled in grade seventh— twelfth grade and attend Chester ISD are eligible to participate in athletics.

**EXAMPLE: CHESTER ISD ATHLETICS**  
**STUDENT ATHLETE GROWTH PLAN**

Students who participate in the CHESTER ATHLETIC Program must meet the following performance requirements. All Athletes are expected to:

- Meet the UIL eligibility requirements of passing all subjects
- Follow the student Athletic Handbooks
- Display appropriate behavior at all times
- Be positive role models and leaders in School
- Follow all rules set by Coaches, Teachers and Administrators

At this time \_\_\_\_\_ is not meeting the performance requirements in the following areas.

( ) Failure to remain eligible

( ) Too many tardies/absences

( ) Not dressing out in uniform daily

( ) Discipline problems:

\_\_\_\_\_

( ) Discipline assignments ( ISS, Suspension, detention, etc.)

( ) Poor attitude and/ or lack of respect towards Teachers, Coaches, Teammates

( ) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The following plan is recommended:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Failure to meet these requirements may have the following results:

- Extra conditioning, Suspension from games or team, Program removal

# QUIT FORM:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, HAVE DECIDED AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO REMOVE MYSELF FROM THE TEAM. I HAVE BEEN GIVEN A TWO DAY (48 HOUR) CONSIDERATION PERIOD TO EVALUATE MY DECISION. I FEEL THAT THE BEST DECISION FOR MY TEAMMATES AND FOR MYSELF IS TO QUIT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY QUITTING THE TEAM I WILL FORFEIT ANY PARTICIPATION IN THIS SPORT FOR A PERIOD ON ONE YEAR. I CAN RETURN AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THE HEAD COACH/AD. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IF I QUIT AGAIN, I WILL FORFEIT ANY FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THIS SPORT. I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT I CANNOT START MY NEXT SPORT UNTIL THIS SEASON IS COMPLETE AND THAT I AM REQUIRED TO RUN MY 15 MILES; THAT I HAVE 30 DAYS TO DO SO.

STUDENT ATHLETE SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

HEAD COACH SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgment of Receipt of Chester Athletics Policy Handbook**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ acknowledge that I have received a copy of the athletic handbook presented to me. I further understand that my child will be held accountable and is expected to abide by any rules set by the **District Policy, Athletic Director and Head Coaches.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Player's Signature